



February 20, 2023

Dear Senator Maher, Representative Linehan, Senator Seminara, Representative Dauphinais, and distinguished members of the Committee on Children:

I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 1047, *AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN CONTRACTS*. As a member of the RESC Alliance, EASTCONN is a long-standing agency providing services to the early childhood community. We have frequently served as the lead agency obtaining funding for the six regional education service centers and understand the need for continuity of professional development services; technical assistance and evaluation; and program planning; inclusive of implementation activities to local and regional boards of education, school readiness programs, child care centers group child care homes, and family child care homes.

EASTCONN has been a partner with the CT Office of Early Childhood to support the early childhood field for numerous years. As an agency in good standing, we provide exemplary services to early childhood programs and provide guidance and expertise to the early childhood workforce that improve educator practices and enable them to provide high quality early learning services to children and families that contribute to equitable outcomes for all children and families served.

By addressing the barriers, which currently exist for expedient contracting, Bill No. 1047 will allow the Office of Early Childhood to secure contracts and funding for services they identify as needed with the six members of the RESC Alliance that ensures continuity of services in a timely manner. Through this legislation, the ability to enter into certain contracts will positively affect the current fragile system of care for our youngest learners across the state of Connecticut.

Therefore, I ask that you support Raised Bill No. 1047, *AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF EARLY CHILDHOOD TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN CONTRACTS* to provide a more efficient and effective contracting process with the six Regional Education Service Centers to ensure young children across the state, will develop and thrive when their family accesses high quality care and education services.

Sincerely,

*Diane Gozemba*

Diane Gozemba, MS ED., MBA

Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at EASTCONN